

each day in raising the American flag over Cooper Middle School several years ago, still offers a lasting example of pride in school and love of country for us all.

In spite of many communications challenges, Bill and his special education classmates offer a unique and engaging ability to inspire people of all ages to see past the disabilities and to focus on each individual's enormous value and potential. Everywhere he travels in the course of a day, he teaches people to smile with him rather than to stare at the circumstances of his disabilities. In this respect, the most encouraging aspect of Bill's personal academic achievement can best be seen in those whom he has educated and influenced along the way.

In Bill's case, commencement marks more than just the beginning of his transition to a productive and promising supported-employment opportunity secured through the coordinated efforts of the Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, and the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services. It also marks the opportunity for many other Fairfax County Public School graduates to remember the lessons they learned from one of their classmates and apply them beyond the walls of the school—to seize those moments ahead in which they can continue to widen the banks of the mainstream, raise the standards of inclusion and accessibility, and improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to Bill Sonntag, the 2002 class of Langley High School, the students, teachers and countless others who have helped to re-define his potential throughout the arc of his special education and their continuing opportunity to make a difference and strengthen the general welfare of our Nation, as they embark on life's great journey. I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding this remarkable achievement.

IN HONOR OF MARTIN FLEMING

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as the family and friends of Martin Fleming gather together at memorial services on June 20, 2002, they will honor the life of an Irish American who touched the lives of so many. Martin passed away on June 16, 2002, and is survived by his wife, Ruby Fleming, and his daughter, Ann Kathleen.

Martin Fleming was a prominent leader for Irish Americans in the Detroit area for the past sixty years. He was born July 28, 1912 in Galway City, Ireland. At the age of sixteen, Martin emigrated to Michigan and settled in Dearborn, where he began his lifelong service to the Irish American community.

Martin quickly found an organization to call home, when he joined the Gaelic League of Detroit. He served as President of the Gaelic League for thirteen terms, from 1938 to 1967. During this tenure, he helped build and

strengthen the Irish American community in Michigan. Through his hard work and dedication, he managed to bring prominent Irish leaders and officials to Detroit, including Eamon DeValera, who later became the President of Ireland.

Martin's service to the Irish American community continued, as he founded the United Irish Societies (U.I.S.) in 1959, served as president of the U.I.S. for eight terms, and returned the Saint Patrick's parade to Detroit. He was also a supporter and friend to myself and other elected officials and leaders of the Democratic party. His work and guidance on issues important to the Irish American community served as an inspiration to us all.

Those who worked closely with Martin considered him the "godfather" of the Detroit Irish community. He was always there to help, serve, and better the Irish American community for generations to come. When asked what he would say to young Irish Americans today, he responded: "I would tell them they should study Irish history and find out where their ancestors came from—and they should become involved and do what they can to help the Irish cause along."

His mark on the City of Detroit and Irish Americans will always be remembered. He will truly be missed. I invite my colleagues to please join me in paying tribute to one of the most influential Irish Americans of Michigan, Martin Fleming, and saluting him for his exemplary years of care and service.

TRIBUTE TO LIONEL JAY  
SILVERFIELD

**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American citizen, and I am proud to recognize Lionel Jay Silverfield in the United States Congress for his invaluable service to Arkansas and our nation.

Lionel Silverfield was born July 6, 1932 in Memphis, Tennessee, but considers himself a lifelong resident of Osceola, Arkansas. He studied at the University of Alabama and nobly served his country in the United States Army, where he rose to the rank of 1st Lieutenant. On July 28, 1958, Lionel married Lenora Pevsner of Oklahoma City. The couple has a son, Martin Silverfield, two daughters, Debbie Scheinberg and Elise May and a grandson, Matthew May.

Lionel enjoyed a successful career as a business leader in Osceola. He was the owner and president of Silverfield's Department Store which closed in March 1995 after 75 years in downtown Osceola. He also served on the local Chamber of Commerce for 36 years, including two stints as Vice President. The city of Osceola proclaimed March 15, 1995 Lionel Silverfield Day in Osceola for his leadership in the local business community.

In addition, Lionel has been a committed public servant and a leader in a variety of community groups. He served on the Osceola Planning Commission for 40 years and is a founding board member of the Riverlawn

Country Club. He maintains a 43-year perfect attendance record in Kiwanis International and was recognized for his leadership with the George F. Hixson Award by Kiwanis International in 1999.

The state of Arkansas is a better place because of Lionel Silverfield, and I am proud to call him my friend. On behalf of the Congress, I extend congratulations and best wishes to this great Arkansan on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE  
PIERRE S. DU PONT IV

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 19, 2002*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today and pay tribute to a man to whom Delaware owes much gratitude—the Honorable Pierre S. du Pont IV, known to all of us as Pete.

Throughout his years in public office, Pete du Pont has become known as one of the most clear and concise political thinkers, not only in Delaware but across the entire Nation. His commentaries and opinions have been highly regarded as the industry's best. But it is his commitment to the State of Delaware that has prompted my remarks in front of this body today.

First elected into public office in 1968 as a member of the Delaware General Assembly, Pete du Pont was recognized for his abilities and elected two years later to represent Delaware as its lone member of the United States House of Representatives. Serving for six years from 1970 to 1976, Pete du Pont was picked by Time Magazine as one of "200 Faces for the Future".

After his terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Pete returned to serve as Governor of Delaware. Facing a near bankrupt government, then Governor Pete du Pont was able to pass legislation that lowered taxes, balanced the State's budget, and boosted educational programs across the State. Welcoming large banks inside our borders, his tax laws helped to reestablish Delaware's financial strength, and helped the State's economy prosper. Re-elected in 1980, Pete's eight years as Governor ended as his Presidential campaign began.

Running for the Republican nomination during the 1988 Presidential Campaign, Gov. du Pont confronted America with a no-nonsense attitude on education and retirement; his views heralded as both honest and principled.

As an advisor to governments here and abroad, Pete du Pont has proven himself as one of America's prolific politicians. Recognized as a first-class commentator, and respected as a National policy columnist, he still serves as a Director of Wilmington's prestigious Richards Layton & Finger law firm, editor of IntellectualCapital.com, and as a guest on many radio and television programs.

A stalwart hero to those who desire clarity in their politics, Pete du Pont's dedication to government and education throughout the years is extraordinary, and I salute him for his years of service to both Delaware and the Nation.